

From: Kevin Driscoll (Yahoo)
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 10:21pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm sending this personally-written, non cut-and-paste message as my personal input on the Microsoft settlement.

It is imperative that Microsoft be held accountable for their ruthless monopolizing and their grinding of many decent software companies into dust by abuse of their monopoly power. Fines, even extravagant ones, will do nothing for a company with such an enormous daily cashflow.

One appropriate remedy is to force MS to publicly and promptly release all their APIs and their file formats so that competitors in the application software business can compete on equal ground. This would probably require some oversight entity to enforce, with jail time for executives for any noncompliance. Altho they'll probably cry about giving up some of the intellectual property, well, losing something is appropriate for a repeat offender and federally-declared monopolist.

During my 22 years in Silicon Valley I've worked for Borland and Netscape and dealt directly with MS on some of these API issues, and their unwillingness to release full APIs in a timely manner has absolutely hurt market acceptance of competing products. Both companies were nearly driven out of business by this and other abusive MS tactics. Many good products died. Many good people lost their jobs. Many investors lost money. Consumers lost innovation and speed, and gained feature creep, product bloat, and performance degradation.

Please do not slap them on the wrist again with consent decree-type solutions, or big fines they can pay out of petty cash. Much more important than punishing them for past criminal behavior is to PREVENT THEM FROM CONTINUING to do it. Forcing them to always publish ALL Windows APIs and file formats, especially the hidden APIs they use to break competitors products - is one fair solution that you need to examine.

I'm a senior software product/project manager, and this is my professional and personal opinion. Thank you for providing the opportunity for me to provide this input. America is a great country - let's keep it that way and stop the monopolies.

best regards,
- Kevin Driscoll, Scotts Valley, California

Do You Yahoo!?
Get your free @yahoo.com address at <http://mail.yahoo.com>

